

BOOK REVIEWS

MIDWIFERY. By Ten Teachers, Under the Direction of Clifford White, M.D. Edited by Clifford White, Frank Cook and William Gilliatt. Eighth Edition. The Williams & Wilkins Company, 1948. \$6.00.

This book was obviously written as an introduction to obstetrics for medical students, midwives and obstetrical nurses. Similar books are not to be found in the United States. The book contains the necessary chapters to cover the material thoroughly and the present revision is up to date with concise information concerning the Rh factor, virus infections in pregnancy, and the use of estrogens in the diabetic patient. Indications for episiotomy are at variance with the American literature and the chapter concerning the toxemias does not give the complete medical regimen as used on this continent. No mention is made of extraperitoneal cesarean section.

This textbook will undoubtedly be welcome in the British Isles. However, in this country it falls short of being what teachers would want for medical students, and it is too advanced for nurses' training schools.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE. By William Mason Yater, M.D., Director, Yater Clinic, Washington, D. C., formerly Professor and Director of the Department of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Third Edition. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., N. Y., 1949.

This third edition of Yater's book may be readily recommended for medical students and general practitioners. It is not intended to replace the textbook of medicine nor does it attempt to give detailed presentations of various diseases. Unusual in a textbook of medicine are the sections on diseases of the skin, ear, eye, and dietetics, the chapter on symptomatic and supportive treatment, and the final chapter on "the physician himself."

Other worthwhile features of the book include the many tables of different diagnoses, the physiological and pathological correlations, the succinct diagnostic summaries in large type at the end of each topic, and the many illustrations. The quality of the reproductions could be improved in comparison to that seen in other texts.

There is an excellent section on electrocardiography in this new edition that brings up to date the newer concepts of unipolar leads according to the Wilson school. It is the best chapter on the subject in any textbook of medicine now available.

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CLINICAL AUSCULTATION OF THE HEART. By Samuel A. Levine, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and W. Proctor Harvey, M.D., Research Fellow in Medicine, Harvard Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$6.50.

This is the first book about clinical auscultation of the heart which makes full use of phonocardiographic records to illustrate the nature of auscultatory findings. This is one of the logical uses of phonocardiography, and its use for this purpose is similar to that of electrocardiograms or jugular pulse tracings in teaching the clinical recognition of arrhythmias.

The book is well written and covers thoroughly and systematically all manner of auscultatory phenomena. It should be of value to any student or physician in any way concerned with auscultation of the heart, and even the physician who fancies himself an expert on auscultation is likely to find something new and interesting. A well-arranged index enables one to turn quickly to a discussion of any given topic.

CRITICAL STUDIES IN NEUROLOGY. By F. M. R. Walshe, M.D., F.R.S., Fellow, Royal College of Physicians, London; Physician to University College Hospital, Physician to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1948. \$4.50.

Although the individual contributions that make up this compilation of some of Walshe's recent work are all available in the medical literature, it is a pleasure to have them collected and at hand for leisurely contemplation. The book would be well worth while if it contained only the last chapter, which embodies Walshe's thoughts on present-day specialization. In this he deals with the present tendency to accumulate facts by research faster than they can be appraised and fitted into the framework of knowledge. In spite of the fact that one comes away with the impression that some of his argument in this regard may be an attempt on his part to justify the somewhat philosophical trend of his own contributions, the wisdom of his thesis must be admitted.

The bulk of the volume deals with a critical evaluation of our knowledge regarding specificity of sensation, and the voluntary motor system, both subjects with which the author is thoroughly familiar. The treatment is sufficiently non-technical to be of interest to not only the neurologist but to the informed physician as well.

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ATLAS OF ORAL AND FACIAL LESIONS and Color Film Library. By Ralph Howard Brodsky, D.M.D., Consulting Oral Surgeon, Department of Hospitals, New York City. 129 pages and 100 color slides in a plastic slide case. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Md. \$80.00.

It is difficult to comment on this work without appearing to discourage a very commendable effort. The method used had great pedagogical promise, but in this pioneering example the full potentialities have not been realized.

The text is obviously written around a set of slides, and while the information presented is basically correct, in many instances it is not sufficiently detailed, and differential diagnosis is neglected. An opportunity is lost in not presenting the microscopic pathology of those conditions which lend themselves to such demonstration.

There is danger in such a superficial treatment of these visible lesions of the face and mouth, many of which look quite similar on the slides. The original slides are no doubt excellent but the color of the reproductions furnished the reviewer is not perfect. It would seem that the eighty dollars charged for the set could be better spent in starting a personal collection of original slides.

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HANDBUCH DER DROGENKUNDE—ERKENNUNG, WERTBESTIMMUNG UND ANWENDUNG. By Franz Berger, Wien. In six volumes. Vol. I—Untersuchungsmethoden, cortices—flores. Verlag Wilhelm Maudrich, Wien, 71, Spitalgasse 1B. 1949. \$10.00.

This is a book for pharmacists. It deals entirely with pharmacognosy, i.e., chemical, physical and microscopic methods of identifying, assay of constituents in, and general uses of, crude drugs. This particular volume deals with barks and flowers, which are well illustrated grossly and microscopically. Many of the drugs listed are obsolete. There is nothing of interest in this compilation to pharmacologists or physicians. The author is a department head in a school for druggists in Vienna and a member of a commission for drug standardization, and undoubtedly speaks with authority about the subject matter discussed.